The Root of All Things

An Ancient Explanation for How We Create Our World

Based on the Mūlapariyāyasutta

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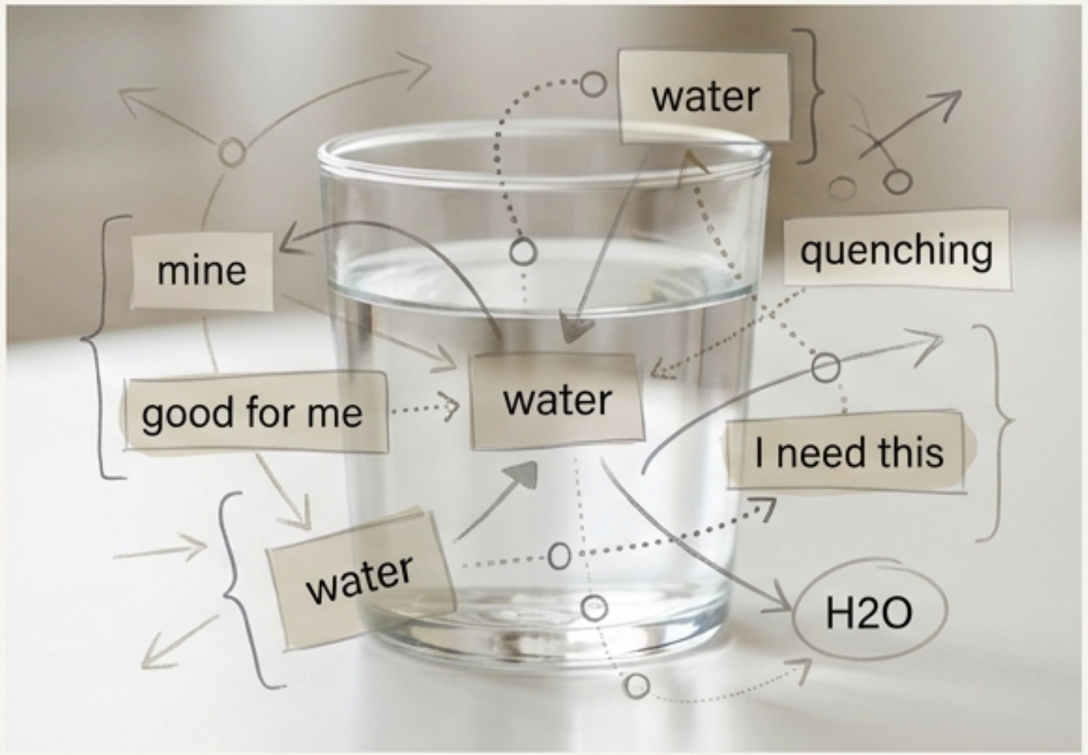
We don’t just see the world. We add to it.

Perceiving.

The direct experience.



Conceiving.

The mental proliferation. The story we tell ourselves about the experience.

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The Buddha's analysis covers "All Things."

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The First Way: The Unlearned Person

‘Untrained in the teaching of the noble ones...
they have not seen true persons.’

Key characteristic: Trapped in a cycle of automatic conception.

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How the Unlearned Person Experiences “Earth”

They perceive earth as earth.

Having perceived earth as earth...

...they **conceive** it to be earth.

...they **conceive** it in earth.

...they **conceive** it as earth.

...they **conceive** that “earth is mine”.

...they **approve** earth.

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Why is that?

Because they haven’t completely understood it.

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The Second Way: The Trainee

‘Hasn’t achieved their heart’s desire, but lives aspiring to the supreme sanctuary.’

Key characteristic: Actively deconstructing the habit of conceiving.

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How the Trainee Works with ‘Earth’

They directly know earth as earth.

Having directly known earth as earth...
...let them **not conceive** it to be earth.
...let them **not conceive** that ‘earth is mine’.
...let them **not approve** earth.

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Why is that?

So that they may completely understand it.
So that they may completely understand it.

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“The Third Way: The Perfected One” in Canela Deck

‘With defilements ended... done what had to be done... laid down the burden... rightly freed through enlightenment.’

Key characteristic: Sees directly, without the filter of conception.

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How the Perfected One Knows “Earth”

They directly know earth as earth.

Having directly known earth as earth...
...they **do not conceive** it.
...they **do not approve** it.

Why is that? Because they *have* completely understood it.

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The Deeper Reason: Freedom

Because they're free of **greed** due to the ending of greed.

Because they're free of **hate** due to the ending of hate.

Because they're free of **delusion** due to the ending of delusion.

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The Final Insight: The Buddha

“The Realized One, the perfected one, the fully awakened Buddha.”

His knowledge is unique: “Because the Realized One has completely understood it to the end.”

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Why?

Because he has understood that

approval is the root of suffering, and

and that rebirth comes from continued existence; whoever has come to be

That’s why the Realized One...

has awakened to the supreme perfect Awakening.

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That is what the Buddha said. But the mendicants did not approve what the Buddha said.

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